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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

27 APRIL 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Fresno - Six Arrested for Trafficking Meth and Heroin in Kern County

(U) Six people were arrested in Kern County yesterday following a year-long investigation of a Bakersfield-based drug trafficking organization that distributed methamphetamine and heroin, US Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced. The defendants are scheduled to make an initial appearance before US Magistrate Judge Sheila K. Oberto today. Those charged in the federal criminal complaint unsealed today are: Jorge Calderon-Campos, 41; Byron Adilio Alfaro-Sandoval, 45; and Johnathan Benjamin Torres, 30; all citizens of Mexico residing in Bakersfield; Jose Angel Beltran-Chaidez, 66, of Bakersfield; and Alberto Gomez-Santiago, 36; and Mark Garcia, 22, of Arvin. According to court documents, Campos distributed large amounts of methamphetamine and heroin in Bakersfield that he imported from Mexico. Between March 2021 and February 2022, law enforcement agencies intercepted and seized approximately 86 pounds of methamphetamine and 1 kilogram of heroin that Campos and his co-conspirators attempted to distribute.

SOURCE: 26 April 2022, US DoJ

(U) Sacramento – Anti-Semitic Incidents Rise 27% in California in 2021

(U) The number of reported anti-Semitic incidents throughout California rose 27% last year, according to a report by the Anti-Defamation League. The Anti-Defamation League's annual audit recorded a total of 367 attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions in California in 2021, nearly triple the 2015 number, the organization said in a statement. The number includes 182 total incidents in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Kern counties, a rise of 29% from 2020, including 64 incidents of vandalism of businesses, places of worship, public spaces and schools. Incidents took place throughout the country, but the states with the highest number of reports were New York (416), New Jersey (370), California (367), Florida (190), Michigan (112) and Texas (112). Combined, these states account for 58% of the total anti-Semitic incidents reported last year, according to the ADL.

SOURCE: 26 April 2022, The Orange County Register

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Offers \$10 Million for Information on Russian Hackers

(U) Washington – The US Department of State's Rewards for Justice is offering \$10 million for information on six Russian intelligence agents involved in the 2017 NotPetya attacks. The six named GRU officers were indicted in 2020 for the global malware event, though the group has not been extradited to the United States to stand trial. All six officers are from in the same GRU Unit, Unit 74455, colloquially known as "Sandworm." In 2017, a wiper worm disguised as ransomware was distributed through a malicious update from the M.E.Doc accounting software widely used in Ukraine. The wiper, known as NotPetya due to similarities to the Petya ransomware, quickly escaped Ukrainian networks and ultimately caused billions of dollars in damage globally.

SOURCE: 26 April 2022, SC Magazine

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) El Salvador – Congress Votes to Extend Anti-Gang Emergency Powers

(U) San Salvador – El Salvador's congress voted Sunday to grant a request by President Nayib Bukele to extend an anti-gang emergency decree for another 30 days. Bukele has used emergency powers to round up about 16,000 suspected gang members following a spate of killings in March. The original 30-day state of emergency approved in late March restricts the right to gather, to be informed of rights and have access to a lawyer. It extends to 15 days the time that someone can be held without charges. It came after a spate of homicides in late March, when gangs were blamed for 62 killings in a single weekend, a level of violence the country of 6.5 million people has not seen in years.

SOURCE: 25 April 2022, Associated Press

(U) Denmark - Man Arrested over Promotion of ISIS Online

(U) Copenhagen – A man was arrested in Denmark today on suspicion of violating anti-terrorism laws by allegedly promoting the Islamic State group on social media. Police said domestic security agency PET took part in the operation, but they did not give further details, including the suspect's age. PET reported last month that Denmark's "the biggest terrorist threat" remains people who sympathize with Islamic militants, including the Islamic State group and al-Qa'ida. The agency said "a significant number of terrorist attacks have been averted in Denmark" and the threat against the country "remains serious."

SOURCE: 27 April 2022, Associated Press

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